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dress. The scientific papers and addresses included a wide variety of subjects under the general topics of public health administration, laboratory work, vital statistics, food and drugs, sanitary engineering, industrial hygiene, child hygiene, health education and publicity. In commemoration of the semi-centennial celebration, the association is also publishing a jubilee historical volume.

Attending these sessions, and guest at a banquet in his honor, was Dr. Stephen Smith, who fifty years ago founded the American Public Health Association and became its first president. Though now ninety-nine years old, Dr. Smith still takes an active part in the affairs of the association. He was further honored during the health fortnight by a souvenir bronze medal bearing his portrait and fittingly inscribed to denote his participation in the fiftieth annual meeting. In addition to his activities in the American Public Health Association, Dr. Smith has been a leader in city and national health work. He is the author of books on surgery and other medical subjects and before the Civil War was editor of several medical journals. As surgeon, he has served Bellevue Hospital many years, and in 1896 he represented this country at the Ninth International Sanitary Convention.

SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS OF THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its recent meeting in Berkeley endorsed the idea of the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments and Pacific Problems and offered the services of scientific men to the President of the United States for solving such Pacific problems as may require expert scientific knowledge.

Dr. William E. Ritter, director of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research, La Jolla, California, writes:

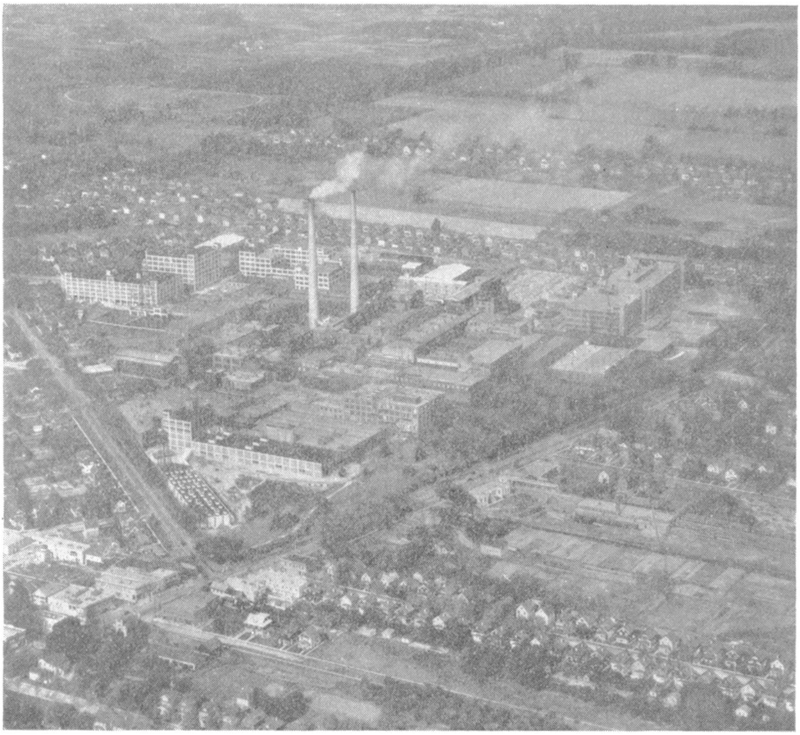
> The resolutions adopted had two aims. One was generally informative. It would let the government and people of the United States know, so far as it might, where the scientists thus expressing themselves stand relative to the purposes of the conference. The hope was that the resolutions would do something toward correcting the belief, now too prevalent, that science is in effect more favorable than unfavorable to the militaristic type of international dealing. The other aim was more concrete. It would make scientific knowledge and research, and technical skill, positive factors in solving international problems by intelligence, which usually follows the way of peace, instead of by emotion, which usually follows the way of war.

The National Research Council has a committee on Pacific Investigations composed of: Herbert E. Gregory, chairman, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii; T. Wayland Vaughan, vice-chairman, United States Geological Survey; William Bowie, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; Barton W. Evermann, California Academy of Sciences; John C. Merriam, Carnegie Institution of Washington; William E. Ritter, Scripps Institution for Biological Research; W. T. Swingle, United States Department of Agriculture; and Clark Wissler, American Museum of Natural History.

GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL COURSES

Two scientific branches of the government are helping their scientific staffs to become more useful to themselves and to the government by offering the opportunity to take courses of graduate study after office hours.

For more than ten years the Bureau of Standards has been maintaining advanced courses in physics, mathematics and chemistry, and this year the Department of Agriculture has inaugurated a system of advanced instruction in those scientific and technical subjects related to the work of the department in which adequate instruction is not available in Washington.



AN AIRPLANE VIEW OF KODAK PARK, THE PLANT OF THE EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

It is expected that the successful completion of any of the courses will be recognized for adequate credit in some of our better educational institutions, both for undergraduate and for postgraduate work. This has already been the case with the Bureau of Standards courses.

Those offered this year at the Bureau of Standards include: Advanced optics by Dr. C. A. Skinner; differential equations by Dr. L. B. Tuckerman; chemical thermodynamics by Dr. L. H. Adams of the geophysical laboratory; interpretation of data, including the theory of errors and methods for numerical, graphical and mechanical computation, by Dr. Chester Snow.

The courses of study at the Department of Agriculture were worked out by a committee from the various bureaus of the department headed by Dr. E. D. Ball, formerly assistant secretary and now director of the scientific work of the department.

There are two more or less distinct kinds of work offered: (a) lecture and drill courses on certain fundamental subjects in which the personnel of two or more bureaus may be interested; (b) intensive graduate training in special topics.

The courses now being given at the Department of Agriculture are: Agricultural Economics, by Dr. H. C. Taylor; Statistical Methods, by H. R. Tolley; Biochemistry, by Dr. C. O. Appleman; Mycology, by Dr. C. L. Shear; Plant Physiology, by Dr. Burton E. Livingston; Genetics, by Dr. Sewall Wright; Physics of the Air, by Dr. W. J. Humphreys; Statistical Mechanics applied to Chemical Problems, by Dr. R. C. Tolman.

THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

At the sixth meeting of the Optical Society of America, held in Rochester, N. Y., the most notable feature was the Helmholtz Memorial Meet-